

3/13/22

To the Honorable Chairs Senator Winfield, Representative Stafstrom, and members of the Judiciary Committee:

I am writing **IN SUPPORT** of:

- [S.B. No. 387](#) AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE JUVENILE JUSTICE POLICY AND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE.
- [S.B. No. 392](#) AN ACT CONCERNING STATEMENTS MADE BY JUVENILES.

I am writing **IN STRONG OPPOSITION** to the following bills:

- [S.B. No. 365](#) AN ACT CONCERNING JUVENILE AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORMS
- S.B. No. 388: AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEFENSE OF A PERSON OR A PERSON'S DWELLING, PLACE OF WORK OR MOTOR VEHICLE.
- [H.B. No. 5418](#) AN ACT REVISING JUVENILE AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE STATUTES AND INSURANCE STATUTES CONCERNING THEFT OF A MOTOR VEHICLE
- [H.B. No. 5417](#) AN ACT CONCERNING JUVENILE JUSTICE AND SERVICES AND FIREARMS BACKGROUND CHECKS.
- [S.B. No. 386](#) AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF THE JUVENILE DELINQUENCY LAWS OF THIS STATE.
- [S.B. No. 16](#) AN ACT ADDRESSING GUN VIOLENCE AND JUVENILE CRIME

I am Mark Feldman, President of Congregation P'nai Or of West Hartford. We have recently affiliated with the Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance (GHIAA). The issue of alleged increased youth related crime appears to be a one sided political agenda. Were it credible, then consistent legislative remedies should emerge representing both conservative and progressive perspectives. This does not appear to be the case.

The bills I oppose that may look good to please campaign postures for some politicians, if passed, will only render the justice system more hostile to all youth accused of misconduct and do little to stop the alleged concerns. Even worse, the damage done to our youth and our trust in the legislative system is incalculable if the problem itself is not fully investigated and documented.

Today I oppose these legislative proposals, with the exception of SB 387 which comes out of the Juvenile Justice and Oversight Committee, through which all of these proposals should be vetted.

The other bills are rooted in a misinformation campaign and lack sound analysis and will lead to more of our youth being tagged as criminals too early in their lives.

Our GHIAA congregations stand ready to defeat policies that are rooted in faulty data. To learn more watch this 7 minute video on GHIAA's position: <https://vimeo.com/686784926>

Sincerely,

Mark Feldman, President of Congregation P'nai Or of West Hartford.
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